Lambda Letters Project

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

32607

Vol. 7, No. 3 March, 1999 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 965-6851

Annual Membership Meeting in April

The annual membership meeting of the Lambda Letters Project is scheduled to take place in Sacramento on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at the Episcopal Cathedral. The cathedral is at 2620 Capitol Avenue, just east of downtown Sacramento. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM with coffee and donuts. The business meeting will begin at 10 AM.

The agenda includes a report on the accomplishments of the Project in 1998, approval of the 1999 budget (covering April 1 through December 31, 1999), the election of new board members, a vote on a proposed bylaws change (discussed later), and other business that may properly come before the meeting. *Please plan to attend our annual meeting. Help us make Lambda Letters Project a representative democracy!*

Who Qualifies to Vote at the Annual Meeting?

Anyone who is a member in good standing at the time of the annual meeting may vote at the meeting. If you have received a membership card from Lambda Letters sometime after December 15, 1998, you are a member in good standing. If you have not received a

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Experimenting with Letters to the Editor

Lambda Letters is conducting an experiment and you are invited to participate.

Media experts say letters to the editor are the second thing that most people read in their daily newspapers. The first thing is the comics. Actual news stories rank a distant third. The point is that letters to the editor can have a powerful effect on the views of the public, which in turn can affect the views and actions of elected officials.

Lambda Letters is going to experiment with helping its members send letters to their newspapers on the issues that concern us all. This effort will be done separately from our regular mailings and we will probably work with just a few volunteers from each media market.

If you volunteer for this effort, you will periodically receive letters from us that are already addressed to the editor of the newspaper in your area. If you agree with its content, your simply need to sign it and mail it to the newspaper.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

January, 1999	4,237 letters & e-mails
In all of 1999	4,237 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

January, 1999	$1,588
In all of 1999	$1,588

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization.

The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly except in December by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.
Postmaster: send address changes to the address above.

Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" × 2") $10 per issue, quarter-page ads $20 per issue, half-page ads $30 per issue, full-page ads $50 per issue. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor Standards Enforcement district offices.

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*These cities share an office.

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People of Color Issue

Race-Based Traffic Stops

by Marty Martinez

Members of minority communities have often complained that law enforcement officers routinely stop minority motorists without sufficient cause. Often, many have argued, these minor (or even nonexistent) traffic violations are used as an excuse to pull over a car that is being driven by a minority motorist and search for contraband weapons or drugs.

S.B. 78, introduced by Senator Kevin Murray (D–Los Angeles), would require law enforcement agencies to collect data on incidents in which motorists are stopped for traffic violations and report that data to the state for analysis. The state's Department of Justice would collect and compile data regarding the number of times local law enforcement officials stop vehicles for traffic violations, how many times searches of the vehicles are involved, how often consent for searches are obtained, how often contraband material is found during these searches, and how many citizen complaints are made against officers who conduct these traffic stops. The data would not contain any information revealing the identity of the individual who was stopped for a traffic violation.

These data collection efforts would hopefully allow the state to analyze the frequency of traffic stops that could be race-related, and put pressure on local law enforcement agencies to justify carefully each traffic violation they find and enforce. The bill is currently in the Senate Public Safety Committee, chaired by Senator John Vasconcellos (D–San Jose). Please sign your name to the enclosed letter, indicating your support of this bill.

Women's Issue

Support the Violence Against Women Act

by Boyce Hinman

A report released recently by the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide evidence that violence against women is a major problem in the United States. The report is called "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence Against Women," and can be found at the following Web site:

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij

People without access to the Internet can obtain a copy of the report by calling (800) 851-3420.

The report details the results of interviews with 8,000 women and 8,000 men. One in four of the women and two in twenty-five of the men reported having been raped, or physically assaulted, at some time in their lives. Moreover, 1.5 percent of the women and 0.9 percent of the men said they had been raped, or physically assaulted, in the last year.

These figures suggest that, nationally, probably 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped or assaulted each year. The study found that men were predominately the perpetrators of violence against either male or female victims. (Incidentally, this fact demonstrates that rape and violence is a problem within the gay male community as well as among heterosexuals.) Indeed, seventy-five percent of the women and 18 percent of the men reported being attacked by someone with whom they had or have had a personal relationship.

Stalking is a serious problem, too. One percent of the women and 0.4 percent of the men reported being stalked in the last year. That works out to about 1 million women and 371,000 men nationally.

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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue

Dignity for All Students Act

by Carolynn Race,
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D–Santa Monica) has reintroduced A.B. 222, the Dignity for All Students Act, which would amend the California Education Code to add sexual orientation to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination—namely, sex, ethnic group identification, race, national origin, color, or mental or physical disability.

A.B. 222 would specifically bar discrimination based on sexual orientation in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment and financial aid.

As you know, students across California have been victims of discrimination because of their real or perceived sexual orientations. Youth have been harassed, beaten, denied entry into certain groups, and called names—simply because they are or are perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or even straight.

In early February, for instance, Adam Colton, a seventeen-year-old senior at San Marin High School in Novato, was severely beaten. He was openly gay and had formed the school's Gay-Straight Alliance group. His sexual orientation was clearly at the root of this crime, because his attackers scratched the letters *F A G* on his stomach and arms with a pen.

This year, the legislature has the opportunity to pass this critical sexual orientation–protection legislation. AB 222 would grant students the protections they need and deserve under the law. Write your assemblymember and state senator and urge his or her support for A.B. 222.

HIV/AIDS Issue

Support Needle Exchange

by Boyce Hinman

According to a report prepared by the University of California for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average lifetime cost of caring for an HIV-infected person is $119,000. The cost of averting the disease through a clean needle and syringe exchange program is $9,400 per infection averted.

The spread of HIV infection among intravenous drug users (IDUs) has skyrocketed. In just two years, from 1996 to 1998, new HIV infections among IDUs went from 3 to 18 percent of total new HIV infections (source: California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS).

Numerous studies, including six federally-funded reports, have concluded that clean needle exchange programs decrease needle sharing and slow the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users without encouraging drug use or criminal activity. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala confirmed these facts in a statement which she issued last year.

California is one of only twelve states that requires a prescription to possess a hypodermic syringe. (Other states include Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.) This makes it difficult to operate clean needle exchange programs. Local jurisdictions can declare states of medical emergency and authorize a needle exchange program. However the

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March Legislative Update

The following is a list and description of some of the bills Lambda Letters is tracking. You can be sure we will be working on most of them during the year and we will keep you informed of their progress.

If you have Internet access, you can look at the full language of each of the bills. Just instruct your search engine to take you to the following Internet address:

www.sen.ca.gov/~newsen/legislation/legislation.htp

Type a bill number, such as AB222 into the text box that has the title Bill Number below it. Then click on the gold nugget next to the box. The bill number will appear on a new page. Click on that bill number and then click on Current to see a copy of the bill. You can print it out as well.

Here is the list of bills:

HIV/AIDS Issues

A.B. 16 (Mike Honda, D–San Jose)
Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services, grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raises. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties.
Status: Introduced. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

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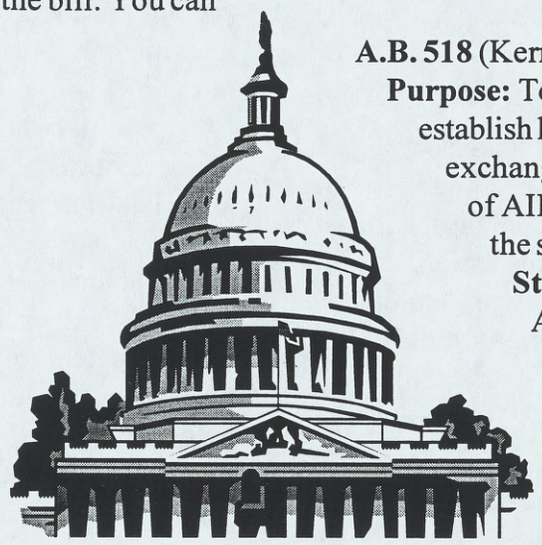
A.B. 103 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to implement a unique identifier system in order to conduct HIV surveillance and improve data collection while maximizing confidentiality protections.
Status: Introduced. May be heard in Assembly Health Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support

A.B. 217 (Scott Wildman, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To provide that specified drugs or agents that are approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use in the treatment of HIV/AIDS shall be added to the drug formularies used by defined Medi-Cal managed care plans and by primary care providers under specified case management contracts.
Status: Referred to Assembly Health Committee. May be voted on in committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.



A.B. 518 (Kerry Mazzoni, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To permit local governments to establish legal clean needle and syringe exchange programs to reduce the spread of AIDS and other diseases spread by the shared use of needles.
Status: Will be referred to the Assembly Health Committee. May be heard in committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 77 (Kevin Murray, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Existing law says a worker's family may apply for a worker's compensation death benefit when a worker dies from a job-related accident or illness. The claim must be submitted within a specified time from the onset of the job related illness or accident. A longer time is allowed in deaths from asbestosis because of the typically longer time from exposure to asbestos and death from asbestosis. S.B. 77 says that HIV and AIDS have a similarly long period of development and so should have a similarly long time during which a claim for a worker's compensation death benefit may be claimed.
Status: Referred to Senate Industrial Relations Committee. May be voted on in Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

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March Legislative Update

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S.J.R. 1 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To "memorialize" the federal government to take steps to ensure that persons abandoned by Medicare HMOs have access to other HMOs or Medigap policies and to rescind the determination that disabled persons under 65 enrolled in HMOs do not have the same rights as other Medicare enrollees. (Legislators use "memorialize" to mean petitioning the federal government to enact something.) Also to memorialize the president to issue an executive order directing his administration to work closely and coordinate with California and other states to guide and assist Medicare enrollees who are abandoned by their HMOs to obtain new Medicare coverage.
Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. May be voted on in committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

A.B. 26 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.
Status: Introduced. May be heard in Assembly Health Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 107 (Wally Knox, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To authorize the state and local governments to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.
Status: May be heard in the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

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A.B. 208 (Wally Knox, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide that the penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation, and this allegation has been charged and found to be true.
Status: Assigned to Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.
LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 222 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)
Purpose: Called the Dignity For All Students Act. Would amend the California Education Code to add "sexual orientation" to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination. It would specifically bar sexual orientation discrimination in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment, and financial aid.
Status: Will be heard in the Assembly Education and Higher Education Committees in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 38 (Joe Baca, D–Chino)
Purpose: Introduced on December as a spot bill and called the Religious Freedom Protection Act. Has not been amended yet to add any language. Senator Baca authored a bill with a similar title last year, which purported to protect a person's right to freedom of religious expression. We are concerned that the eventual wording of this bill might undermine a person' s protection from discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations.
Status: The bill will probably be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee in March.
LLP Position: Watch.
S.B. 75 (Kevin Murray, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To enact the Domestic Partnership Act of 1999, which would define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State. Also to specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.
Status: May be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

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March Legislative Update

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S.B. 118 (Tom Hayden, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.
Status: Was supposed to be heard in Senate Industrial Relations Committee on March 24th. However, Hayden requested to postpone the vote while he works on some amended language for the bill. Stay tuned.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

A.B. 43 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Program to arrange for the provision of health services to eligible children whose family's income is less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This bill would increase the limit to less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level and would provide that a child who is otherwise eligible for participation shall not be denied eligibility based on the child's date of entry into the United States.
Status: May be heard in Assembly Health Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 63 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D–National City)
Purpose: To create an Office of Border Health, which would act to increase cooperation between Mexican and California/U.S. health authorities in tracking disease, monitoring the health of persons along the border region, and to convene a task force of community stakeholders to help develop a strategic plan to address the health concerns in the border region.
Status: May be voted on in the Assembly Health Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 44 (Richard Polanco, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: This bill says that the laws of California, including the restrictions on affirmative action, do not prevent governmental agencies from engaging in focused outreach and recruitment of minority groups and women if any group is under-represented in entry-level positions or in an educational institution.
Status: May be heard in Senate Judiciary Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 66 (Kevin Murray, D–Culver City)
Purpose: Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to develop and disseminate training for police officers, including instruction on racial and cultural diversity, in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between law enforcement and members of all racial and cultural groups. This bill additionally would require the commission to develop guidelines that California law enforcement agencies would be required to adopt for the purpose of establishing race neutral criminal profiles.
Status: Referred to Senate Public Safety Committee. May be voted on in committee in March
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 78 (Kevin Murray, D–Culver City)
Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Justice to issue an annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year. This bill would require this annual report to contain information about the race, ethnicity, approximate age, and gender of the people stopped in traffic stops.

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March Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

Status: Referred to Senate Public Safety Committee. May be voted on in committee in March
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 82 (John Vasconcellos, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To provide that any alien who is otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal services, but who does not meet specified requirements relating to residency status (undocumented alien), is eligible for medically necessary pregnancy-related services.
Status: May be heard in Senate Health and Human Services Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 145 (Teresa Hughes, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To strongly request the Regents of the University of California, and require the Board of Trustees of the California State University, to establish a pilot study that would create pools of talented students to which alternative admissions criteria to these schools may be applied, admit students from these pools, and monitor their academic success as compared to regularly admitted students.
Status: May be heard in Senate Education Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

A.B. 40 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)
Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, and to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.
Status: Assigned to the Assembly Health Committee. May be voted on in March.
LLP Position: Support.

A.B. 324 (Steve Baldwin, R–La Mesa)
Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to develop a program providing abstinence education (as defined) and, where appropriate, mentoring, counseling, and adult supervision to promote abstinence from sexual activity with a focus on those groups that are most likely to bear children out-of-wedlock. To discourage education in use of contraceptives and other means to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy or transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.
Status: May be referred to Assembly Education Committee and may be voted on in committee on March 17th.
LLP Position: Oppose

S.B. 56 (Hilda Solis, D–El Monte)
Purpose: To prohibit employers from punishing employees who take time off to testify in court in domestic abuse cases as long as they give reasonable notice to the employer that he or she is required to appear in court to obtain, or attempt to obtain, any relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or that of his or her child.
Status: May be heard in Senate Industrial Relations Committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

S.B. 149 (Ray Haynes, R–Riverside)
Purpose: To set strict standards and restrictions on abortion providers.
Status: May be heard in Senate Health and Human Services Committee in March.
LLP Position: Watch.

S.B. 193 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale a breast cancer flag to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.
Status: Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee. May be heard in committee in March.
LLP Position: Support.

Lavender Valentines — **Del & Phyllis** ~ **46 years** ~

Violence Against Women Act

Continued from page 3

There have been problems in enforcing the laws that do exist. Often judges are insensitive to the needs of women who have been victimized. For example, a judge in Canton, Georgia, ordered a batterer last year to marry the woman he had just been convicted of abusing. The judge said he wanted to protect the child of the victim and her abuser. He almost held the women in contempt when she refused to marry the man.

The Violence Against Women Act was initially passed by Congress in 1994. It contained many provisions that were beneficial to women. However, this act is due to expire at the end of this year. The bill must be approved again to continue these programs and to add some new ones.

The bill now before Congress, H.R. 357 (introduced by John Conyers, D–Michigan) provides the following:

- Funds for battered women's shelters
- Protections for women at their workplaces
- Tax credits to employers who establish programs to assist workers who have been battered
- Sensitivity training to judges
- Grants to reduce violence against women on college campuses
- Requirement of federally funded medical schools to teach their students about domestic violence
- Legal assistance to victims of domestic violence
- Increase in penalties for domestic abuse

H.R. 357 is good legislation and we urge you to write to your member of the House of Representatives expressing your support of the bill.

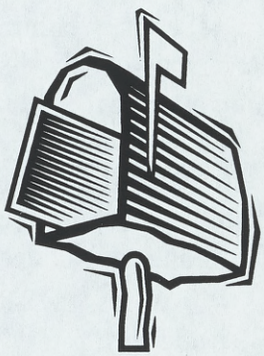
(Portions of the information in this article were provided by the National Organization for Women [NOW] in Washington, DC, and by Women Escaping a Violent Environment [WEAVE] in Sacramento.)

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 1

The letters would include your name, address and phone number. Editors usually want your phone number so that they can check to confirm that you actually sent the letter. Normally, however, if a newspaper prints your letter, it simply lists your name and city of residence at the bottom of the letter.

Would you please consider to take part in this experiment? If so, send us a note and include the name and address of the newspaper in your area. If possible, it would be great also to have the name of the person at the newspaper who usually writes on political and legislative issues. Please remember that we can only accept a few volunteers from each media market, but contact us anyway; it might catch on and become something big!



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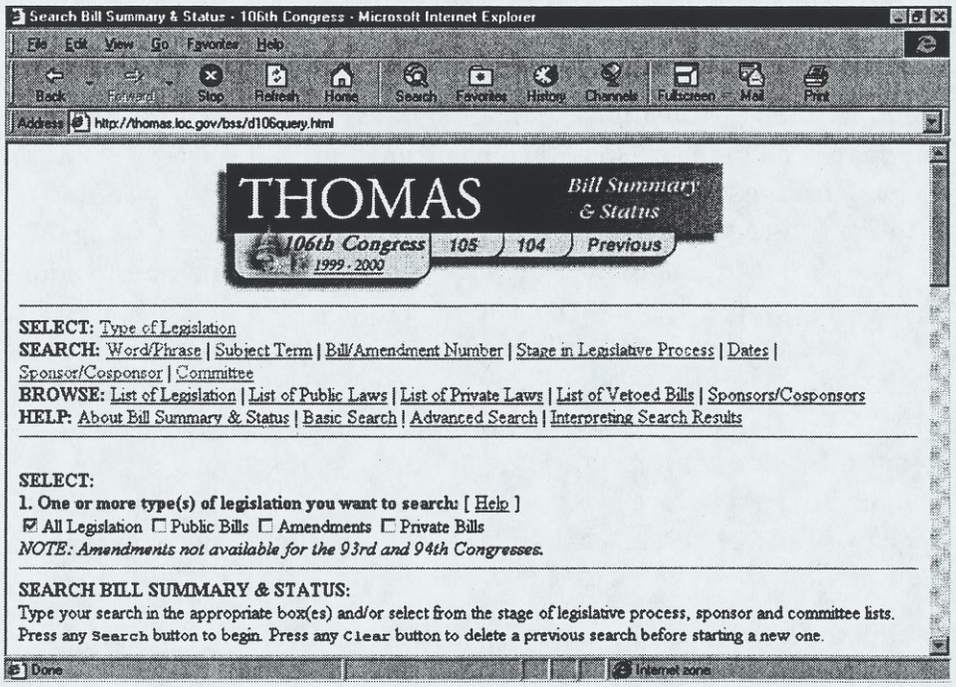
Legislative Surfing, Part II

Last month we told you how people with Internet access can obtain information on legislation before the California State Legislature. This month we will teach you how to find legislation before Congress. Actually the database for Congressional bills is much more extensive than our state legislature's. So, this month we will focus on how to use the Thomas Bill Summary & Status page to get information about federal legislation.


Search Bill Summary & Status - 106th Congress - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address http://thomas.loc.gov/bss/d106query.html
THOMAS
Bill Summary & Status
106th Congress 1999-2000
105
104
Previous
SELECT: Type of Legislation
SEARCH: Word/Phrase | Subject Term | Bill/Amendment Number | Stage in Legislative Process | Dates | Sponsor/Cosponsor | Committee
BROWSE: List of Legislation | List of Public Laws | List of Private Laws | List of Vetoed Bills | Sponsors/Cosponsors
HELP: About Bill Summary & Status | Basic Search | Advanced Search | Interpreting Search Results
SELECT:
1. One or more type(s) of legislation you want to search: [Help]
All Legislation Public Bills Amendments Private Bills
NOTE: Amendments not available for the 93rd and 94th Congresses.
SEARCH BILL SUMMARY & STATUS:
Type your search in the appropriate box(es) and/or select from the stage of legislative process, sponsor and committee lists.
Press any Search button to begin. Press any Clear button to delete a previous search before starting a new one.
Done
Internet zone

(People without Internet access can always call the district office of their member of the House of Representatives and ask for a copy of a particular bill. Congressmembers' district offices are listed in the front of the phone book under "U.S. Government.")

To access the Thomas Bill Summary & Status page (see image above), direct your browser to the following Web address:

thomas.loc.gov/bss/d106query.html

Suppose you want to find out which bills have been introduced in Congress that deal with violence against women. Go to text box 1 and type in the words **violence against women**. Then click the Search button just to the right of the box, as shown here:

1. Word/Phrase: [Help]
E.g., *child neglect, endowments, death penalty, emotional health, senators*
violence against women Search Clear
Search for word variants, e.g. plurals. Search for exact word(s).
Searching is not case-sensitive -- use either upper or lower case.

After a moment you will see a page with a list of bills, along with a brief description of each bill and the name of the bill's author.

If you want more details about a bill, click on its bill number. That will bring you to a screen with a list of topics relating to that bill. The last item on the list is "Text of Legislation." Click on that last item and you will soon see a table of contents of the bill. Click on any item in that list to see the actual text in that portion of the bill.

For instance, suppose that you had heard of a bill (H.R. 597) whose aim is to have the U.S. Post Office issue an HIV/AIDS stamp to raise funds for AIDS research. You can use text box 3 on the Thomas Bill Summary & Status page to see a copy of the bill. Simply type **H.R. 597** in the text box and click on the Search button to the right of the box, as shown here:

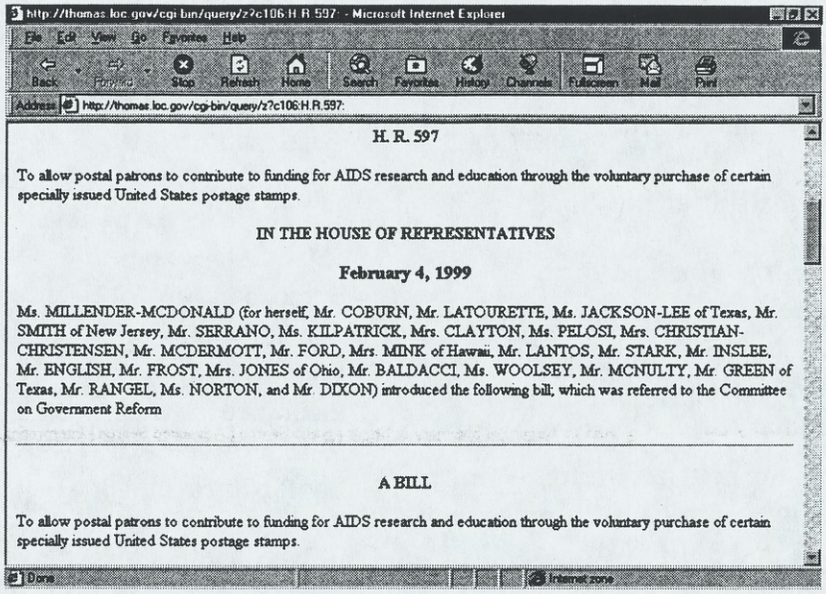
3. Bill/Amendment No.: [Help]
E.g., *s. 435, H.R. 842, hjres 78, S. Con. Res. 45, S.Amdt. 63, ha121*
H.R. 597 Search Clear
NOTE: Amendments not available for the 93rd and 94th Congresses.

Continued on page 11

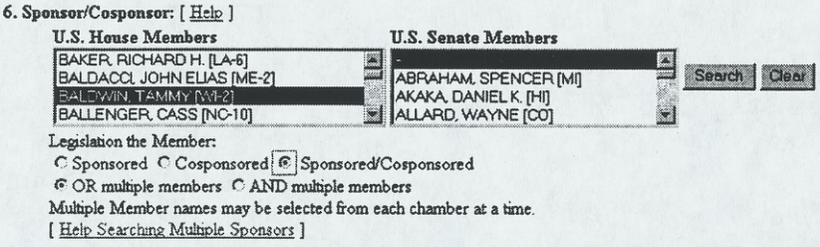
Legislative Surfing

Continued from page 10

Searching for H.R. 597 brings you to a screen with a list of topics relating to that bill, as shown:


http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.597: - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.597:
H. R. 597
To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for AIDS research and education through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 4, 1999
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (for herself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. PELOSI, Mrs. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FORD, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. STARK, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. FROST, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. DIXON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform
A BILL
To allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for AIDS research and education through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps.
Done
Internet zone

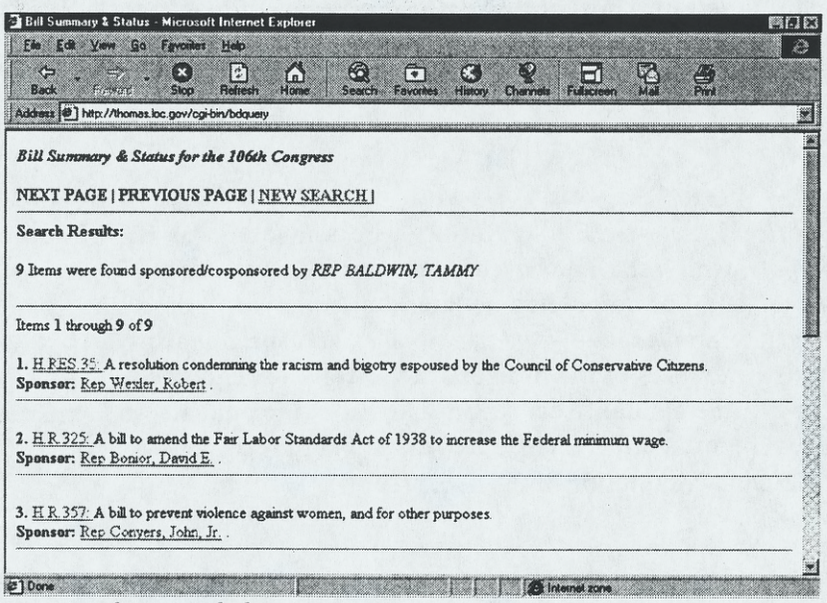
Finally, suppose you want to see which bills Tammy Baldwin, the new, openly lesbian member of the House of Representatives, is sponsoring or cosponsoring. Go to text box 6 on the Thomas page. You will see a drop-down list of members of the House of Representatives. Select Rep. Baldwin's name. Click on the Sponsored/Cosponsored option button found below the text box, as shown below. Then click on the Search button to the right of the box. (Before doing this be sure that all the other text boxes on the page are blank. This will avoid confusing the search engine.)



Clicking the Search button will bring you to a list of the bills sponsored or cosponsored by Rep. Baldwin, as shown to the right.

Click on any bill number and then follow the steps described above to get a detailed view of the bill.

Happy Web surfing!


Bill Summary & Status - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Go Favorites Help
Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites History Channels Fullscreen Mail Print
Address http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery
Bill Summary & Status for the 106th Congress
NEXT PAGE | PREVIOUS PAGE | NEW SEARCH |
Search Results:
9 Items were found sponsored/cosponsored by REP BALDWIN, TAMMY
Items 1 through 9 of 9
1. H.RES 35: A resolution condemning the racism and bigotry espoused by the Council of Conservative Citizens.
Sponsor: Rep Wexler, Robert .
2. H.R.325: A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage.
Sponsor: Rep Bonior, David E. .
3. H.R.357: A bill to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.
Sponsor: Rep Conyers, John, Jr. .
Done
Internet zone

Annual Membership Meeting

Continued from page 1

membership card, please complete and submit the membership application, found at the back of this newsletter. That is the only way to guarantee your right to vote in person or by proxy. We hope you can submit payment for dues with the application, but we do not deny people membership in Lambda Letters because of their inability to pay. If necessary, you can request a waiver of dues on your membership application.

Serving on the Board

Do you wish to run for a seat on the board of directors of Lambda Letters? If so, please send your name, phone number, and a brief biography explaining why you want to join the board. We will publish your candidacy in the next newsletter. Please submit your information by March 19th. Submission of your data by e-mail to LambdaLP@aol.com would be particularly helpful.

If you are unable to attend, *please complete and return the proxy statement* enclosed with this newsletter. This is very important because unless we have a quorum of one third of the members present, in person or by proxy, we cannot accomplish the important business of the meeting.

What Is the New Budget?

The 1999 budget will be approved at the annual meeting. Feel free to study the preliminary budget in Table 1 at the top-left of the page.

Why Is There a Proposed Bylaws Change?

A proposed bylaws change will also be voted on in the meeting. The wording of the proposed language is as follows (words in ~~strikethrough~~ are to be removed from the bylaws; words in *italic* are to be added):

ARTICLE IX

SECTION 3, ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT. The Annual Fiscal Report, which shall be based on the annual ~~audit~~ *compilation*, shall be completed no later than ninety (90) days after the ~~annual review~~ *year end*. The Treasurer shall notify members of the project of their right to request a copy of the annual fiscal report. Copies of the annual fiscal report shall be distributed at the board meeting following completion of the fiscal report.

Table 1. Proposed 1999 Budget

Income	
Ad space revenue	2,600
Contributions	16,000
Interest incurred	100
Member dues revenue	5,000
Total income	23,700
Expenses	
Advertising expense	–200
Bank charges	–10
E–mail	–200
Fees	–450
Insurance	–2,400
Misc. expenses	–200
Photocopies	–6,000
Postage	–3,200
Pride festivals	–900
Printing costs	–300
Sales tax	–50
Software	–200
Supplies	–1,500
Telephone	–200
Travel	–4,500
Total expenses	–20,310

In essence, the bylaws change would remove the requirement that we have an annual audit of the Project and instead require that a certified public accountant do an annual compilation of the Project's balance sheet. A compilation is less rigorous than an audit, but is also considerably less expensive. The fee for an audit—typically $5,000 to $6,000 per audit—is simply beyond our means.

We hope you will attend and help make Lambda Letters a member-run organization. Remember, we need attendance of one-third of our members present, in person or by proxy, to conduct business. *So please complete and return your proxy immediately.* (Please note that you will be able to vote at the meeting even if you send us your proxy but then decide to attend the meeting after all.)

Don't Know Who Represents You?
Just ask us and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials.

Supporting Needle Exchange

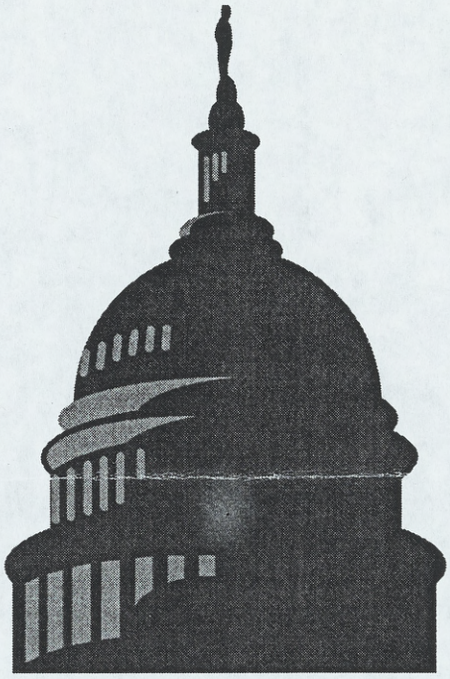
Continued from page 4

process for doing so is cumbersome and the emergency must be declared again every two weeks. Most local governments cannot stand the political heat this creates. As a result, several underground needle exchange programs in the state.

Kerry Mazzoni

Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni (D–San Rafael), has introduced A.B. 518, which would allow local jurisdictions to establish clean needle exchange programs. They would not have to revisit the issue repeatedly and they would have the precedent of state legislation to reduce the political pressure created by doing so. The bill will be voted on in the Assembly Health Committee in late March or early April.

We urge you to write to a member of the committee urging a favorable vote on the bill.



the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

OUTWORD
newsmagazine

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!ALERT-ALERT!

Anyone who has not sent us their dues, or an application for waiver of dues, by March thirty first will be removed from our mailing list and will no longer receive our monthly mailings. We don't want that to happen.

We want to continue serving you, but we cannot do that unless you become a member. If you have not received a membership card from Lambda Letters, please complete the membership form below and send it to us immediately. Please send us your membership application today so that we can continue serving you.

Waiver Policy

Lambda Letters does not deny membership due to lack of funds.
If necessary, please request a waiver of dues in the form below.

We must have your membership dues, or a request for a waiver of dues, no later than March 31, 1999 in order for you to continue receiving the Lambda Letters, newsletter and sample letters after that date. Please complete the application, below, enclose your check, and return them with your letters this month.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the Lambda Letters Project.

I enclose a check, made payable to Lambda Letters, in the amount of:

☐ $35 membership.

☐ $20 limited income membership.

☐ Please accept my request for a waiver of dues.

Name - _____

Please print name clearly.

Address - _____ City - _____ ZIP - _____